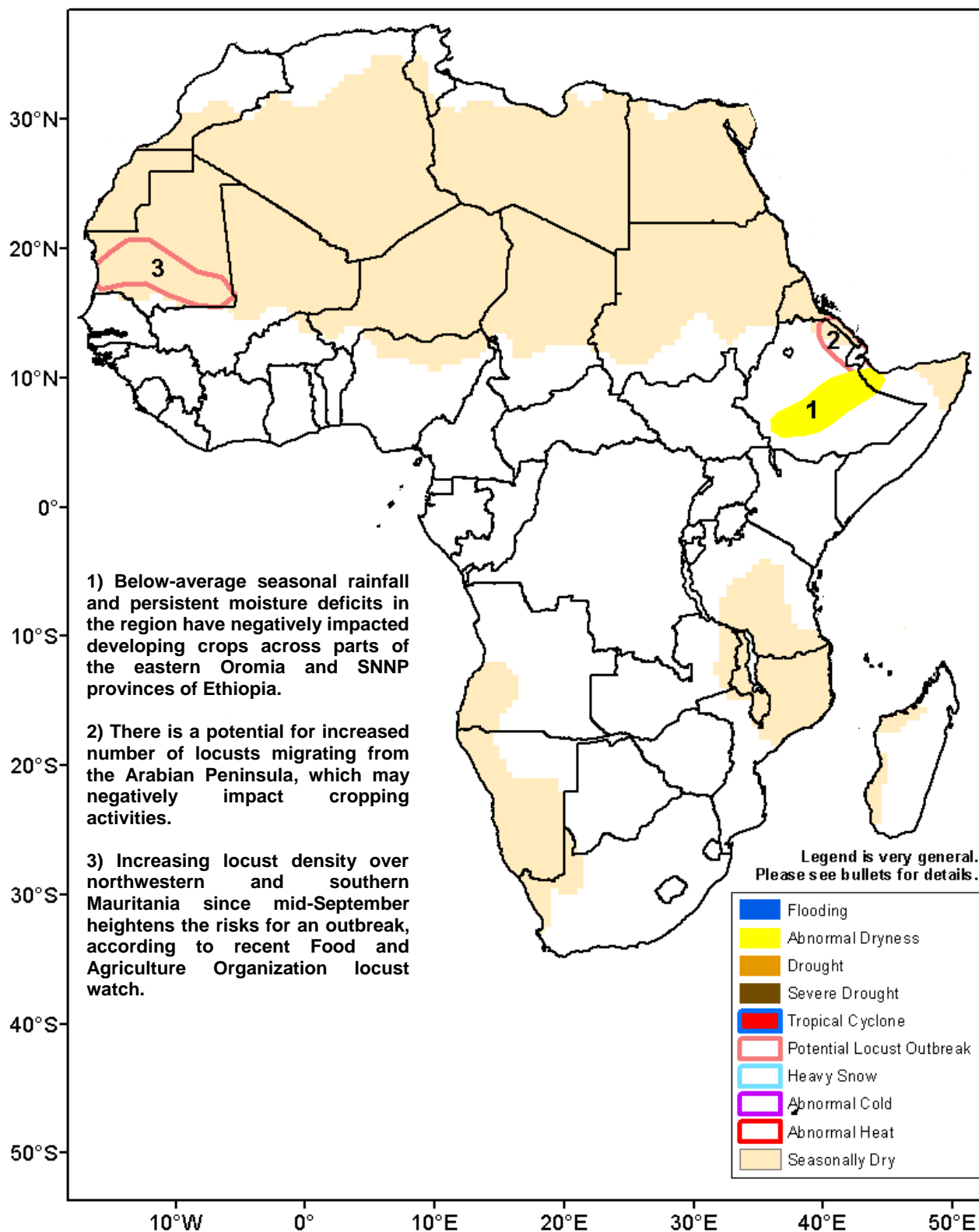




## Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook October 20 – October 26, 2016

- Moderate to heavy rain expected over the Greater Horn of Africa during the next week.
- Heavy rain observed across the bi-modal region of West Africa during the past week.



**Seasonal rainfall delayed over many parts of the Greater Horn of Africa.**

From October 12-18, moderate to locally heavy rain fell over portions of southern Sudan, northwestern South Sudan, and western Ethiopia (**Figure 1**). Light to no rainfall was, however, observed elsewhere. While this past week consistent rain helped increase thirty-day rainfall surpluses over parts of Sudan and Ethiopia, the uneven spatial distribution of rainfall over the past few weeks has increased deficits over Somalia and northeastern Kenya. As the Eastern Africa rainfall season progresses, areas of southern and eastern Ethiopia, Kenya, and southern Somalia should receive light to moderate rainfall totals on a weekly basis.

An analysis of cumulative rainfall since late April to date has indicated large positive anomalies across southern Sudan, northern South Sudan, and western Ethiopia due to favorable moisture convergence during the previous months. In contrast, large negative anomalies, with deficits between 100-300 mm, have been observed over southern and eastern Ethiopia, northern Uganda, southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya, which were associated with an uneven distribution of rainfall over the past six months (**Figure 2**). In Kenya, many counties and residents have been reported to be impacted by dryness, caused by a lack of rain since the past several months and delayed onset of the ongoing season. An analysis of recent vegetation indices has showed below-average conditions, which could indicate a poor state, resulting from deficient rain during the previous season and a dry start to the current season, over the SNNP region and eastern Ethiopia, southern Somalia, and eastern Kenya.

During the next week, moderate to locally heavy rain is forecast over western and southern Ethiopia, extending to a wide area of central Somalia. This is expected to reduce or eliminate thirty-day moisture deficits across the region. Locally moderate to heavy rain is expected around the Lake Victoria region, while little to suppressed rain is forecast elsewhere.

**Rainfall surpluses persist over most areas along the Gulf of Guinea of West Africa.**

Since mid-September to date, most areas of West Africa have continued to receive favorable rain. Rainfall surpluses were observed across portions of western Senegal, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, parts of Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, southwestern and eastern Nigeria (**Figure 3**). In contrast, thirty-day moisture deficits were registered over portions of Liberia and eastern Nigeria. During the past week, heavy and above-average rain fell over portions of Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and southern parts of Nigeria. Reports have indicated flooding, which damaged houses and crops over the Cross River State to the southeast of the country. During the next week, while moderate to heavy rain is expected to continue over Guinea-Conakry, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire, rainfall forecasts suggest reduced, with mostly light rain throughout the Gulf of Guinea region.

**Note:** The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

